EUGENE

City of Eugene Bias and Hate Incident Response

Hate and bias crimes instill fears and distress to victims and communities, and may have far-reaching negative consequences. Hate crimes impact the community at large, and require specific attention and sensitive response. The City of Eugene has a strong commitment to responding to hate activity, as well as contributing to hate crimes prevention strategies. The City of Eugene, through codes, policies and practices, strives to safeguard the civil and other legal rights of all people. Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other offences infringing on these rights are viewed as a very serious matter by the City and police. This agency will use necessary resources to rapidly and decisively identify perpetrators and pursue vigorous enforcement action. Attention will be given to victims and others impacted by the offence.

HATE ACTIVITY OCCURS/ REPORTED

NOTIFY POLICE IMMEDIATELY: 541-682-5111 OR 911 POLICE NOTIFY CITY LEADERSHIP AND LEAD DESIGNATED RESPONSE TEAM IDENTIFIED; RESPONSE PLAN COORDINATED BASED UPON INCIDENT RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Non-Criminal Hate Activity: This type of hate activity includes biased or bigoted acts that target a group of people, individuals, or property, that do not involve crimes. Non-criminal hate activity often is protected by free speech and can include rallies, offensive signs or t-shirts, leafleting and flier distribution, and group meetings. Attempts to regulate speech face substantial constitutional hurdles. Eugene Police Department (EPD) law enforcement may not involve itself in non-criminal hate activity, often manifested as 'hate speech.'

Criminal Hate Activity – Bias Crimes and Hate Crimes: Bias crimes are often referred to as a "hate crimes" and include any *criminal* act against a person, group of people or property motivated by bias or prejudice. Bias crimes are not stand-alone crimes, rather the term "bias" is used to describe the nature of crimes and distinguish those crimes that are motivated by prejudice and bias against designated protected classes. Crimes that involve bias differ from other crimes because of their intent to send a message that implies: "You are a target because I don't like you. I don't want you here. I will hurt you." Hate crimes can include all classes of crime motivated by bias or prejudice based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In addition to statutory reporting of state and federally classified hate crimes, Eugene Police also track bias-related crimes motivated by perceived age, economic status, social status, citizenship, marital status, or political affiliation or beliefs, membership or activity in or on behalf of a labor organization or against a labor organization to monitor community relations. Crimes can range from telephonic harassment, graffiti, property damage, physical assault or murder. EPD Violent Crimes leads criminal investigations of bias crimes. Criminal mischief, intimidation and assault are common bias crimes in Eugene.

Always inform Eugene Police Department of possible crimes as soon as possible. Call 911 during a crime. Call 541-682-5111 to report a non-emergency crime situation.

Information about other hate activity should be directed to the Equity and Human Rights Center, 541-682-5177, ehrcenter@ci.eugene.or.us.

The circumstances surrounding each hate incident are unique. A coordinated and sensitive response, tailored to each incident, ensures the best outcome for victims and community members.

The City of Eugene established hate and bias incident response strategies as a resource to the City of Eugene and broader community, available upon request: ehrcenter@ci.eugene.or.us.

REPORTING & TRACKING HATE ACTIVITY

Hate activity is reported from diverse sources, such as a community member victim or witness, police, the Mayor, City Councilors, City Manager, Police Auditor, a city employee, community-based agencies such as Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), family members, schools, or newspapers.

Police notification: Inform EPD of possible hate *crimes* as soon as possible. This will initiate the internal EPD protocols to investigate the situation as a hate crime.

Police follow-up protocols: Patrol notifies Violent Crimes and/or the Eugene Police Public Information Officer and Chief. Police notify City Manager, who may notify Public Relations Manager, Mayor and ward Councilor. In some cases, County leadership should also be involved. Police also notifies Equity and Human Rights Center so all hate activity can be logged and tracked. Police may choose to send out a pre-media brief advisory immediately following events, if they anticipate concern from or in the community.

Equity & Human Rights Center protocols: The City of Eugene Equity and Human Rights Center will help plan a coordinated response for any hate incidents reported to the Center by police or any other sources. Center staff will assess the situation and, with partners, coordinate a timeline and process for connecting with the targeted individual or group, and the impacted community (social group and/or geographic area). The Center maintains a hate and bias activity log to monitor hate and bias incidents and trends in our community.

RESOURCES

Eugene Police Department

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency tip line: 541-682-5111

Springfield Police Department 541-726-3714

City of Eugene Equity and Human Rights Center

541-682-5177

Email: ehrcenter@ci.eugene.or.us

Lane County Human Rights Complaint Line

541-682-2380

University of Oregon Bias Response Team

Email: brt@uoregon.edu

Phone: 541-346-1134 or 541-346-1139

Community Alliance of Lane County

Back to Back: Allies Against Hate Program Stop Hate Campaign: 541-607-8077

Email: report hate@yahoo.com

Department of Justice
Community Relations Service

Regional Headquarters

915 Second Avenue, Suite 1808

Seattle, WA 98174

206-220-6700

Will assist in cases of significant community impact.

Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes
On line: www.against.hate.pdx.edu

By email: OregonCAHC@mail.com

503-725-8502